

ADDRESS BY J. STROM THURMOND, CANDIDATE FOR THE
UNITED STATES SENATE, AT OPENING CAMPAIGN MEETING,
LEXINGTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, MAY 23, 1950. 11:00 A.M.

It is a pleasure for me to be back in Lexington/and to open here my campaign for the United States Senate. The good people of this county/gave me a flattering majority in my race for Governor four years ago, and for their support I am deeply appreciative.

I think it is indeed fitting that the Democratic State Executive Committee/selected Lexington as the county in which to begin these campaign meetings. The Democrats of this county voted five to one/for the presidential electors of the Democratic Party of South Carolina in the 1948 election/when a rump political group sought to challenge the supremacy of our party. The Democrats of old Lexington, along with 90 percent of the "real" Democrats in the state, demonstrated to the nation/their loyalty and devotion to the principles of South Carolina democracy.

In announcing for the United States Senate, my first pledge was to the principles of the Democratic Party of South Carolina, as enunciated by our state convention in 1948/and reaffirmed in 1950. These are the same principles for which I fought in 1948, for which I am fighting in this campaign, and for which I will fight as a representative of the sovereign State of South Carolina in the United States Senate.

At the outset of this campaign/I want the people to know/that I am no "fair weather" South Carolina Democrat. My devotion to the principles of South Carolina democracy is eternal, and does not change with the seasons. I will not be one kind of Democrat in Washington/and another kind of Democrat in South Carolina.

I appreciate the opportunity which our party has afforded in these campaign meetings/to speak to the people face to face. These are critical times in which we live. Serious international conditions confront us and the threat of war hangs over our heads. The Russian bear is spreading out its greedy paws/and constitutes a danger to the democracy of the world/fully as great as the axis powers which we so recently crushed.

While we are seeking to keep democracy alive in other parts of the world, there are forces at work within our own shores trying to undermine the American system of government. They are working to centralize in Washington all governmental power, and to take from the states the powers that rightfully belong to them under the Constitution. Geared with this drive for a super-central state/is a determined effort to socialize many aspects of our economy.

Not in many years have the Democrats of South Carolina / been confronted with such a serious responsibility as is now presented

to them in the nomination of a United States Senator. These campaign meetings will afford an opportunity for the Democrats of our State /to hear a joint discussion of the issues involved /by the two candidates seeking their support for the Senate. These meetings will permit the Democrats of the State to contrast our public records /and then decide which one of us will best represent the people of South Carolina, their ideals and principles, as United States Senator.

In this opening speech /I want to make one thing crystal clear. I do not intend to engage in personalities, but I am not going to hesitate /to show the people of South Carolina where my opponent has been weighed in the balance of South Carolina democracy and found wanting. Throughout this campaign I am going to tell the Democrats of South Carolina /how I stand /on every important issue. I am going to give a full account of my stewardship as their Governor. My opponent has stated that he intends to compare his record as Governor with mine, and that challenge I most heartily accept. I invite him to discuss my record of public service, and I want him to know here today /that I intend to discuss his record /and show where he has not measured up to the trust /which the Democrats of South Carolina placed in him.

I believe the Democrats of South Carolina are sick and tired of shilly-shallying, fence-straddling, double-talk, and hypocrisy. They have been through the fire in recent months. They have witnessed the

spectacle~~s~~ of the present national Democratic leadership/attacking the South and seeking to destroy our customs and institutions and our way of life in South Carolina. They have fought courageously for their principles and beliefs.

They know who stood with them and fought their battle. They also know full well/who has played around and connived with the opposition, who has run with both the hares and the hounds, and who has tried to wear two faces under the same hat.

Our people have waited a long time/for an opportunity to express themselves on such political conduct. That opportunity has now arrived in this election, and I am satisfied that they will speak at the ballot box/in no uncertain terms.

When the new Congress convenes in January/I will have completed my four year term as Governor. I made a contract with the people of South Carolina/that if elected/I would serve the full term. I stated that I would work for a program to improve government/and move our state up the economic ladder of progress.

In my inaugural address I outlined a positive and progressive program for South Carolina. With the cooperation of the legislature, most of that program has been carried out. Today it is bearing the fruits of good government and providing beneficial results/to people in all walks of life and in every phase of our economy.

Time will not permit me in this address to discuss this program in detail. However, I do want to call to your attention/what I consider some of the outstanding accomplishments/during my administration as Governor.

My first objective was to bring about a reorganization and streamlining of our state government/in the interest of economy and efficiency. A Reorganization Commission was established/and already several plans have been submitted, including the adoption of central purchasing which in itself will save several million dollars annually to the taxpayers.

We have brought about a sound and business-like operation of the state government. Our financial rating has been raised from A to double A, resulting in tremendous savings in interest. We have maintained a balanced budget/and at the same time greatly increased the services of our state government to the people of South Carolina.

The major objective of my administration/has been to bring new industries to our State. By being able to assure concerns which were considering the location of new plants/that they would enjoy in our State/a sound, efficient and fair government, we have been able to capitalize on what we have to offer/in capable native-born labor, fine climate, extensive natural resources and good transportation facilities.

As a result I am happy to report to you today/that South Carolina/in proportion/leads the nation in new industrial development. During my administration, more than \$420,000,000 has been spent or allocated on new and expanded industries. Translated into jobs and payrolls, and that is really what counts, this means 48,500 additional jobs for our people/and new payrolls aggregating \$104,000,000 annually. This means our industrial payroll will reach a new high level of almost a half billion dollars annually, or an increase of about 100% during my term as Governor.

We have ended the vicious pardon racket in South Carolina, and there are those here today who know what I'm talking about/when I refer to the pardon racket. I will have more to say about that later in this campaign.

We have curbed the nefarious liquor ring/which grew up in South Carolina as a result of the enactment of an almost wide-open liquor bill/which was signed by my opponent as Governor in 1935.

We have enacted a new election law/which provides for a secret ballot, a single registration for state and county elections, the regulation of primary elections, and punishment for fraud and corruption.

We have made splendid progress in improving our educational system. State appropriations for public schools have increased from

\$17,500,000 in 1946 to \$32,500,000 in 1950. Teachers' salaries have increased an average of over 50 percent. The State supported nine months school term has been enacted into permanent law. More progressive and constructive school legislation has been passed in the last four years/ than in any other like period in the history of the State.

The unconstitutional practice of dual office holding has been ended.

For the benefit of labor we have cleaned up the Industrial Commission/ to protect our working people and their families in compensation cases. We have established Area Trade Schools/ to enable workers to acquire skilled training and thereby increase their earnings. An occupational disease law has been passed. Improvements have been made in state laws relating to wages and hours of textile workers.

We have promoted better working conditions/ and better understanding between employees and management. During the year 1949/ there were fewer man hours lost through labor disputes than in any other state in the nation. By bringing new industries to South Carolina, we have provided increased employment for our workers and strengthened labor's bargaining position.

Although we have enjoyed tremendous industrial gains, agriculture remains the backbone of our economy. To strengthen our farm economy/ we initiated a system of state markets to enable farmers

to enjoy better markets for diversified production/and a higher and better balanced income. The large wholesale market near Columbia is now under construction/and will soon be in the active service of our farmers.

Our land is our greatest natural resource/and today we are taking better care of our soil than ever before. By means of year around pastures/we are developing a profitable livestock and dairying program in South Carolina. We have had our forest resources resurveyed/and many valuable measures have been enacted to protect and promote timber growing in our state. We have taken steps to conserve our fresh water resources/which are growing more important in developing and maintaining a prosperous agriculture in South Carolina.

We have promoted rural electrification and paved 4,100 miles of farm to market roads.

A Foundation Seed Organization has been created to enable farmers to obtain high grade seed, and steps taken to improve our livestock sanitation program.

Great strides have been made in providing increased facilities for improving the health of our people. Adequate minimum standards for hospitals have been set, and \$6,000,000 provided to counties for hospitals and health centers. We have increased funds for cancer control, and established a half-million-dollar cancer clinic

program. Funds have been provided for the erection of a \$10,000,000 teaching hospital at the State Medical College, so that we can educate more doctors and nurses, and to diagnose and treat unusual diseases, and this service will be available both to those who are able to pay for it and to those who are not.

Increased payments have been provided for the aged, needy blind, dependent children, and physically and mentally handicapped persons. Funds for these purposes have been increased 50% since I became Governor.

Increased funds have been provided for Veterans Service Work, carrying out recommendations of State Veterans' Committees which I appointed.

A uniform rules of the road act has been passed to promote highway safety; drunken driving laws were strengthened; and the driver education program in high schools was accelerated.

The tax on household goods has been removed by constitutional amendment.

The influence of women in government has been greatly enhanced/by my appointment of more women to public office than in any other similar period in the state's history.

A program was initiated to modernize and improve facilities

at the State Penitentiary and to rehabilitate prisoners.

\$12,000,000 in surplus funds was allocated for building programs in public institutions.

I have advocated and worked to secure the Clark Hill project and the development of the Savannah River Valley.

The National Guard has been strengthened/by increasing funds for maintenance and new facilities, and as Governor I vigorously opposed a proposal for the federal government to take over the National Guard in peacetime.

I have cooperated and worked with the State Ports Authority/ in developing South Carolina ports to their largest commercial use since the War Between the States.

The last four years have been progressive years in South Carolina government. ~~(My record of accomplishments as Governor is one to which I point with pride, and)~~ I lay that record before you for your consideration in connection with my candidacy for the United States Senate.

As the campaign progresses I propose to submit to the people of South Carolina/the measures I will advocate, the principles of government to which I subscribe, and the policies which I will follow/ if elected to the United States Senate for the next six years.

In this initial speech of the campaign, I want to summarize

my position on some of the broad issues which I think now confront the nation, and which concern the people of South Carolina. Later I will amplify my position and fully express my views on all issues as they are presented in the county to county meetings.

I stand for the preservation of our federal system as laid down in the Constitution of the United States, with its apportionment of sovereignty between the federal and state governments/in their respective proper spheres of governmental activity. I am opposed to further encroachments/upon the sovereignty of the states by the federal government. I believe that the concentration of all power in Washington / will result in the destruction of local self government and the individual liberty of the American citizen/which our Constitution was ordained to secure.

I favor strong national preparedness/adequate to insure our national security until such time as there is no danger of war/and nations have demonstrated their ability to settle their differences around the conference table. I believe a strong national defense is our greatest assurance of maintaining peace.

I will work to strengthen the United Nations /to make it the effective instrument of world peace that President Roosevelt believed it would be. We must see to it that the doors to peace are always kept open.

I am opposed to changing the United Nations into a World Government/to which the sovereignty and independence of the United States of America would be subordinated.

I believe that partisanship should stop at the waters-edge/and that our foreign policy should be truly bi-partisan/so that every man and woman in America will feel a personal responsibility for it.

I stand for the support of the freedom-loving nations of Europe and other parts of the world/in their resistance to the spread of Communism/and the expansion of Russia's Iron Curtain to take them in. If we allow them to fall, we in the Western Hemisphere would be left to fight alone. I favor the Marshall Plan, with the Congress exercising the greatest care in screening all requests for aid/and seeing to it that the money is wisely allocated and efficiently administered.

I shall work for greater economy in the federal government/and the repeal of the war excise taxes.

I am opposed to deficit financing in peace time.

I shall work for a balanced federal budget.

I am opposed to the socializing of American business and industry, and shall stand for the full support and protection of our

traditional system of individual initiative and free enterprise.

I am opposed to socialized medicine and compulsory national health insurance.

I stand for the full recognition and protection/ of the right of collective bargaining between employees and employers. I believe that our labor legislation should be re-examined from time to time/ to the end that it shall always fairly and impartially safeguard/ the just interests of labor, of management, and of the public. I am opposed to the outright repeal of the Taft-Hartley law. There are those who for pure political purposes/ insist on its outright repeal before they will support any changes in it. When they take this position they are sacrificing the legitimate interests of our working people on the altar of pig-headed politics.

I favor the continuation of a federal farm program carrying out the basic principles of the 1938 Agricultural Adjustment Act/ which was passed by a Democratic Congress under the leadership of President Roosevelt. Our permanent farm program must be built around soil conservation and water use/ with price supports and adjustments to prevent market gluts that always accompany over-production. Our farmers must be assured parity prices for their products/ and in turn our farmers will cooperate in conserving the soil and adjusting production to the needs of the consumer. I am opposed to the Brannan plan, which is contrary to the Roosevelt AAA farm program/ and would make the farmer dependent on a subsidy under the control of federal bureaucrats. The farmer is entitled

to cost of production plus a reasonable profit for his products in the market place, and I shall work to achieve that end. To further stabilize farm income/I will vigorously support the development of a sound crop insurance program/with coverage broad enough to take in our major crops.

I shall advocate legislation whereby relief may be provided for the people/from any Federal Judge/who destroys his usefulness and brings his court into disrespect/by engaging in the villification and abuse/of the very people over whom he is called to preside.

I stand for the social and educational separation of the races. I am opposed to the so-called Civil Rights Program.

I am opposed to and have already spoken out against/the federalization of the National Guard of the States in peacetime.

I am opposed to and have already spoken out against/the integration of the races in the armed forces and in the National Guard.

I believe that public education should be run by the states and their subdivisions, that public education must remain wholly free, wholly independent, and that the Federal government should not and cannot/rightly subsidize public education throughout the United States/because this would inevitably result in Federal control and regimentation of our public schools.

I shall continue the fight for freight rate equality for the Southern States/to the end that all existing inequalities shall be eliminated.

I believe that the level of benefits for veterans and their families/should be re-examined from time to time/in the light of the decrease in the purchasing power of the dollar.

I shall stand for the weeding out of Communists and subversives from our national government, and for the prosecution of the treasonable activities of Communistic and un-American organizations/which seek to destroy our nation by inciting race against race, class against class, and the people against free institutions.

I shall advocate the Federal government discontinuing its encroachment/upon fields of taxation traditionally belonging to the states, and thereby enable the states to better perform their proper governmental functions.

South Carolina can confer no higher honor or place no greater responsibility on one of her citizens/than by bestowing upon him the power and prestige of a United States Senator.

The Senate remains the greatest deliberative body in the world. It has vast powers to investigate and legislate, tax and appropriate, confirm or reject executive appointees, ratify treaties and provide for the national defense.

Those who represent South Carolina in the Senate/can exercise tremendous influence/in preserving peace, instilling character

and efficiency in government, and in molding public opinion behind those principles and institutions which are essential to the perpetuation of our republic.

Realizing this, it is with humility that I ask the Democrats of South Carolina to nominate me for the Senate. I do so believing that my experience as a teacher, State Senator, Judge and veteran of the last war, and as Governor for four years, equips me to discharge the duties of this high office properly and efficiently and render a service to the people of South Carolina and the nation.

In this campaign I know I will have the support of the good men and women in this state who believe in clean and honest government, who take orders only from their heart and conscience, and who are determined that the principles of our party shall be preserved despite those who fight them from without and betray them from within.

Those who are joined with me in this campaign are not unmindful of the opposition that we will encounter. We know outside influences that hate and seek to destroy our way of life in South Carolina are already at work seeking to dominate this election with the hope that they can make it appear to the nation that our people have repudiated the courageous stand South Carolina took for state sovereignty in 1948.

We know that large blocs of people will vote in this primary who do not subscribe to the principles of the Democratic Party

of South Carolina. A turncoat federal judge/has disrupted the white Democratic primary in South Carolina/but he cannot disrupt the determination of the real Democrats of South Carolina to control the government of this State.

With these real Democrats, I shall make the fight for South Carolina democracy; for Americanism and against socialism; for the right of the people of a state to govern themselves and against further centralization of power in the national government; and for the right of South Carolinians to choose who is to serve them in the Senate/without outside interference.

There will be no middle ground in this campaign. The time has come when our people must take sides/and stand up and be counted/if we are going to retain home rule, block the trend toward socialism, and preserve our way of life.

To these ends/I shall wage this campaign in every county in South Carolina, confident that we will be victorious/when the voice of South Carolina democracy speaks at the ballot box/on July 11.